

National Science Forum
440 Collins Street Melbourne
Monday 13 October 2008

Questions for discussion: science paper

Workshop 1: 11.00 am - 12.30 pm

1. Do you support the big ideas/essential concepts in the proposed structure table in the paper? What other approaches could be considered?
2. Do you agree with the curriculum focus areas identified for each stage of schooling? If not, what modifications would you propose?
3. In addressing the big ideas/essential concepts what level of specification of knowledge, skills and understanding is appropriate for the national science curriculum.
4. How can the science curriculum best ensure the appropriate balance between content-specific topics and attention to scientific competencies?

Workshop 2: 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

5. What cross-curriculum knowledge and skill areas should be taught explicitly in the science curriculum?
6. Should the science disciplines provide the basis for organising the curriculum in the junior secondary years?
7. How many science subjects, and which ones, should be included in the senior secondary years of schooling?
8. To what extent does the initial advice establish a strong platform for engaging young Australians in science learning in the 21st century?

Are there any other comments that you would like to make regarding the paper?